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WASHINGTON STAR

Kilday Says Defectors Show NSA Study Need

The chairman of a Congressional subcommittee investigating the defection of two National Security Agency code clerks to Russia declared today that neither man should have been employed in such a sensitive agency.

Announcing that his House Armed Services subcommittee plans no further sessions in the near future, Representative Kilday, Democrat of Texas, said he personally believes NSA employee security clearance procedures require more study.

"From an examination of information in the possession of NSA at the time of the employment of Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin, it is my personal view that neither should have been employed in a sensitive agency," Mr. Kilday said.

"That information showed them to be unstable even though specific acts of culpability were lacking," he added.

Statement Retention Criticized

The chairman also criticized the Defense Department for concealing too long a statement Mitchell and Martin left behind when they disappeared last June. The two men showed up September 6 in Moscow to announce their defection and to urge the United States.

Their statement was found in a safe deposit box in a Laurel (Md.) bank.

"Its concealment gave the Russians a propaganda advantage in its release by them," Mr. Kilday said. "Prior to the appearance of Mitchell and Martin in Moscow I so informed James Douglas, Deputy Secretary of Defense. That was a decision for the Department of Defense and Mr. Douglas did not agree with my view."

Mr. Kilday said that the subcommittee consisting also of Representatives Arends, Republican, of Illinois, and Hardy, Democrat of Virginia, has formed no conclusions. It will decide later whether to hold additional hearings.

Today it heard two Central Intelligence Agency officials, Gen. C. B. Cabell, the deputy director, and Robert Bannerman deputy director of security. Since its first session last Thursday, it has questioned almost a dozen Pentagon and NSA officials behind closed doors.

Giving his personal views on the basis of testimony thus far, Mr. Kilday repeated an earlier comment that the Mitchell-Martin defection did not greatly damage this country's code and cipher systems.

"While a serious detriment

to the NSA, the defection is not of the catastrophic character indicated by some of the speculation present prior to our hearing," Mr. Kilday said.

"It appears as if Mitchell and Martin are in a position to aid the Russians in making Russian intelligence more secure. They are not in possession of information which renders our own intelligence insecure. It appears at this point that our own code and cipher (systems) are still secure."

No FBI Jurisdiction

Discussing the various investigations of Mitchell and Martin by several agencies in addition to NSA before the employment of the code clerks in 1957, Mr. Kilday noted that under executive department procedures and regulations the FBI cannot conduct background investigations for NSA. "There is nothing out of the ordinary in the fact that the FBI did not investigate Mitchell and Martin for employment by NSA," he said.

The subcommittee's suspension of further hearings means that all congressional investigation of the defection apparently has come to a temporary standstill. The House Committee on Un-American Activities held a one-day hearing last Friday to question NSA and Defense Department officials. It announced there will be no further hearings for about two weeks.